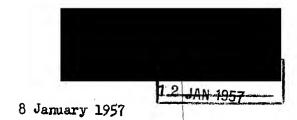
STATINTL



MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

This memorandum is for information only:

Here is what purports to be the original of the "Who Wouldn't?" interogation story which you might care to add to your after-dinner list. The story, like its subject is always old, yet ever new.

STATINTL Assistant to the Director

Letters to the Editor of the homeric hexameters by the

speare's sonnets, to his private friends. I can see no reason for withholding their names. The "reverend head of an Oxford college" was the very Rev. I regret that the passage of nearly thirty years has left only two words of them in my mind, but they are perhaps worth Lancelot Ridley Phelps, Provost of Oriel, recording, for those who knew and under whom I had the privilege to sit for the last two years of his tenure. The other party to the affair was Ernest Edward Jenner, who had been imported by the Provost in 1927 in a laudable (and successful) effort to improve the alassical knowledge of those of the when were reading Honour Moderations to The point of the story as related by Mr John Berjeman is largely lost if one flows hot Perognise the two personalities involved f Jenner was not a guest at High Table but a classical tutor of the college, and his views in the matter of indulgence in drink and tobacco were very well known to the Provost, who took occasion to

nce, ma

Provost: Mr Jenner, Sir, may I press you to a glass of port, a glass of port, a glass of port?

tease him about them from time to time. The story also loses yet more of its pith

if from it is omitted the Provost's habit of triplicating his utterances. The incident is reputed to have occurred over coffee in the Provost's Iodgings,

and the actual dialogue, as credibly re-

ported at the time, went as follows; in

who Wouldn't?"

SIR-Before the mists of legend distort beyond recognition one of the best stories of my day at Oxford, may I seek space in your columns to correct and amplify Mr Betjeman's version of it as quoted in your review of "The Compleat Imbiber" on December 15th?

As both the principals are now dead,

Jenner: Mr Provost, on no account. Sir, I would rather commit adultery. Provost: My dear Sir, who wouldn't, I mean to say, who wouldn't, who wouldn't? ni benirdene saw mebiani elodwhedideals while refic

present Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford, whose lines were circulated, like Shake-

revered the Provost-κερδαλεοδ φελψ.-

Yours faithfully,

Savile Club, W.I

DENIS O'NEILL